

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a ~~patient~~-patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece, on which the patient bites, and means for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken[[.]],

including means for indicating the angular position of the pivoted plate, and

including driving means for vertical adjustment of said holding member and pivoting said plate.

2. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein means for detecting the angle of deflection α comprise one or more sensors disposed in said holding member.

3.-4. (Cancel)

5. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-4_1, wherein said driving means move said plate automatically into a predefined angular position and stop when said predefined angular position is attained.

6. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-4_5, wherein said driving means indicate when said predefined angular position of said plate is attained by means of optical and/or acoustic signals.

7. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 1, for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece, on which the patient bites, and means for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,

wherein said pivoted plate is connected to a rail which is disposed in said holding member, is capable of being moved upwardly and downwardly and has an opening for the purpose of positioning detecting the position of said rail in said holding member by detector means.

8. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-17, wherein said bite piece ~~is provided with~~ includes a replaceable protective sheath.

9. (Cancel).

10. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-916, wherein said bite piece is of a soft material.

11. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-916, wherein said bite piece is of a substantially radiolucent material.

12. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-916, wherein said bite piece is made of closed-cell ethylene foam.

13. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-916, wherein said bite piece occupies an angle β of the dental arch ~~with which~~ ranges from 20° and ~~to~~ 40° and is, in particular, approximately 30° .

14. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-916, wherein said bite piece has, on its upper surface and on its undersurface respectively, a bite groove for the accommodation of the dental arch of the upper and lower jaws of the patient.

15. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-916, wherein said bite piece is a unitary piece and is foldable along a folding edge.

16. (Currently Amended) A bite device ~~as defined in claim 9 for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising~~

a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece, on which the patient bites, and means for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,

wherein said bite piece has, on opposite sides thereof, a wedge-shaped tapered projection and a complementary recess for the accommodation of said projection for releasably fitting said bite piece to said pivoted plate, and

wherein said bite piece is replaceable.

17. (New) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein said bite piece includes a replaceable protective sheath.